

CLAIMS

1 1. A peer-to-peer network of devices, said peer-to-peer network comprising:
2 a plurality of network devices locatable in two or more zones and connected
3 together over a digital network. data being streamed over said digital network, each
4 of said network devices including one or more data communication units;
5 at least two said network devices including a receiving unit, said at least two
6 devices being located in different ones of said zones. each of said receiving units
7 controlling local reception of data from said data stream: and
8 at least two said network devices including a source unit. each said source
9 unit selectively providing data to said data stream,
10 wherein a person at a first network device may select to receive data from a
11 first source unit while a second person at a second network device is receiving data
12 from a second source unit.

1 2. A peer-to-peer network as in claim 1, wherein the digital network further
2 comprises:
3 at least one network device including an intercom unit in communication
4 with receiving units, said intercom unit providing intercom, paging and station
5 monitoring functions.

1 3. A peer-to-peer network as in claim 2, wherein at least one source unit is an
2 audio source unit injecting audio data into the data stream.

1 4. A peer-to-peer network as in claim 3, wherein at least one receiver unit is an
2 audio receiver extracting audio data from the data stream. said audio data being
3 converted to sound and provided to the zone in which said audio receiver is located.

1 5. A peer-to-peer network as in claim 4, wherein at least one of the network
2 devices is a room station, each said room station including an audio source unit, an
3 audio receiver unit and an intercom unit.

1 6. A peer-to-peer network as in claim 5, wherein at least one of the network
2 devices is a door station, each said door station including an audio receiver unit and
3 an intercom unit.

1 7. A peer-to-peer network as in claim 5, wherein at least one of the network
2 devices is a dual tuner, each said dual tuner including two audio receiver units.

1 8. A peer-to-peer network as in claim 5, wherein each of said network devices
2 is attached to a central hub and is assigned a unique hub address.

1 9. A peer-to-peer network as in claim 8, wherein sound volume is set at each
2 said audio receiver unit independent of sound volume settings at other said audio
3 receiver units

1 10. A peer-to-peer network as in claim 8, wherein sound tone is set at each said
2 audio receiver unit independent of sound tone settings at other said audio receiver
3 units

1 11. A peer-to-peer network as in claim 8, including a plurality of audio source
2 units each providing audio data from one of a plurality of audio sources

1 12. A peer-to-peer network as in claim 11, wherein said plurality of audio
2 sources includes a radio tuner, a compact disc player, a mini-disc player, a
3 microphone, a cassette player and a compressed audio data source and, wherein any
4 audio receiver unit may select audio data from any audio source unit independent of
5 other said audio receiver units

1 13. A peer-to-peer network as in claim 11, wherein a plurality of said network
2 devices include an interactive display displaying status information, commands

3 being provided to units connected to said network through each said interactive
4 display.

1 14. A peer-to-peer network as in claim 13, wherein said interactive display
2 provides a menu of said commands.

1 15. A peer-to-peer network as in claim 13, wherein at least one interactive
2 display displays time information.

1 16. A peer-to-peer network as in claim 13, wherein ones of said network devices
2 may selectively disable issuance of commands from other ones of said network
3 devices.

1 17. A peer-to-peer network as in claim 13, wherein at least one network device
2 includes a timer, said timer being able to initiate execution of selected commands.

1 18. A peer-to-peer network as in claim 11, wherein said digital network further
2 includes a communication port selectively communicating with devices external to
3 said digital network.

1 19. A communication and entertainment network, said communication and
2 entertainment network comprising:

3 a plurality of peer-to-peer network devices attached to a central hub and
4 assigned a unique hub address, each of said network devices being locatable in one
5 of two or more zones, each of said network devices including one or more data
6 communication units data being streamed over said central hub between connected
7 devices;

8 at least two said network devices including a receiving unit, said at least two
9 devices being located in different ones of said zones, each of said receiving units
10 controlling local reception of data from said data stream;

11 at least one network device including an intercom unit in communication
12 with receiving units, said intercom unit providing intercom, paging and station
13 monitoring functions;

14 at least two said network devices including a source unit, each said source
15 unit selectively providing data to said data stream,

16 wherein a person at a first network device may select to receive data from a
17 first source unit while a second person at a second network device is receiving data
18 from a second source unit.

1 20. A communication and entertainment network as in claim 19, wherein at least
2 one source unit is an audio source unit injecting audio data into the data stream.

1 21. A communication and entertainment network as in claim 20, wherein at least
2 one receiver unit is an audio receiver extracting audio data from the data stream, said
3 audio data being converted to sound and provided to the zone in which said audio
4 receiver is located.

1 22. A communication and entertainment network as in claim 21, wherein at least
2 one of the network devices is a room station, each said room station including an
3 audio source unit, an audio receiver unit and an intercom unit.

1 23. A communication and entertainment network as in claim 22, wherein at least
2 one of the network devices is a door station, each said door station including an
3 audio receiver unit and an intercom unit.

1 24. A communication and entertainment network as in claim 22, wherein at least
2 one of the network devices is a dual tuner, each said dual tuner including two audio
3 receiver units.

1 25. A communication and entertainment network as in claim 21, wherein sound
2 volume is set at each said audio receiver independent of sound volume settings at
3 other said audio receiver units.

1 26. A communication and entertainment network as in claim 21, wherein sound
2 tone is set at each said audio receiver independent of sound tone settings at other
3 said audio receiver units.

1 27. A communication and entertainment network as in claim 21, including a
2 plurality of audio source units each providing audio data from one of a plurality of
3 audio sources.

1 28. A communication and entertainment network as in claim 27, wherein said
2 plurality of audio sources includes a radio tuner, a compact disc player, a mini-disc
3 player, a microphone, a cassette player and a compressed audio data source and,
4 wherein any audio receiver unit may select audio data from any audio source unit
5 independent of other said audio receiver units.

1 29. A communication and entertainment network as in claim 27, wherein a
2 plurality of said network devices include an interactive display displaying status
3 information, commands being provided to units connected to said network through
4 each said interactive display.

1 30. A communication and entertainment network as in claim 29, wherein said
2 interactive display provides a menu of said commands, and wherein at least one
3 interactive display displays time information.

1 31. A communication and entertainment network as in claim 29, wherein ones of
2 said network devices may selectively disable issuance of commands from other ones
3 of said network devices.

1 32. A communication and entertainment network as in claim 29, wherein at least
2 one network device includes a timer, said timer being able to initiate execution of
3 selected commands.

1 33. A communication and entertainment network as in claim 19, wherein said
2 digital network further includes a communication port selectively communicating
3 with devices external to said digital network.